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4 preprocessing before introduction into an accounts payable
5 data base original electronic invoices received from a
6 vendor to identify duplicate invoices including
7 identifying as duplicate invoices those invoices for the
8 same vendor, invoice number, purchase order billed and
9 items billed for which the net sum of invoiced amounts is
10 greater than zero;

11 introducing invoices not identified as duplicate invoices
12 into said accounts payable data base; and

13 electronically rejecting invoices identified as duplicate
14 invoices back to said vendor without introducing said
15 duplicate invoices into said accounts payable data base.

1 2. [Twice Amended] A method for operating a computing
2 system, comprising the steps of:

3 grabbing [an] inbound EDI invoice [file] files from [a
4 vendor] vendors before [it is] they are input to an
5 accounts payable database, said grabbing including sorting
6 inbound debit invoices and credit invoices in credit/debit
7 sequence and posting said credit invoices to said accounts

8 payable database;

9 auditing in sequential order of receipt said debit
10 invoices in said inbound EDI invoice [file] for a
11 duplicate invoice item, a duplicate invoice item being an
12 invoice item having a net sum > zero determined with
13 respect to previously received invoices for the same
14 vendor invoice designation, same purchase order number,
15 and same item number;

16 upon determining said inbound EDI debit invoice is a
17 duplicate invoice [having a same vendor invoice
18 designation, same purchase order number and same item
19 number], creating an electronic duplicate invoice
20 transaction back to said vendor; and

21 posting to said accounts payable database only those debit
22 invoices determined not to be duplicates.

1 3. The method of claim 2, said auditing step comprising the
2 further steps of:

3 first sorting said inbound EDI invoice against an accounts
4 payable production table for same vendor and same vendor
5 invoice number;

6 second sorting hits from said first sorting for same
7 purchase order billed;

8 third sorting hits from said second sorting for same items
9 billed on purchase order;

10 fourth sorting hits from said third sorting to identify
11 said inbound EDI invoice as a duplicate invoice if it
12 contains an item having a net sum greater than zero.

1 4. [Amended] Method for operating a computing system
2 responsive to receipt of an electronic input invoice from a
3 vendor, comprising the steps of:

4 grabbing said input invoice before it is input to an
5 accounts payable database;

6 automatically identifying previously received invoices
7 from said vendor having the same vendor invoice
8 identifier;

9 automatically identifying said previously received
10 invoices having the same vendor invoice identifier and
11 items corresponding to items on said input invoice;

12 automatically calculating the net sum of items on said

13 input invoice having corresponding items on said
14 previously received invoices;

15 for an input invoice having an item with a net sum greater
16 than zero, communicating an automated duplicate invoice
17 rejection message back to said vendor without posting said
18 input invoice to said accounts payable database; and

19 for an input invoice having no item with a net sum greater
20 than zero, posting said input invoice to said accounts
21 payable database.

1 5. [Amended] A program storage device readable by a machine,
2 tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by a
3 machine to perform method steps for processing electronic input
4 invoices from a vendor, said method steps comprising:

5 automatically preprocessing said input invoices to
6 identify duplicate invoices;

7 processing before introduction into an accounts payable
8 data base said input invoices received from a vendor to
9 identify as duplicate invoices those said invoices having
10 an exact match on, vendor invoice number, purchase order
11 number and item number, and having a sum greater than
12 zero;

13 introducing invoices not identified as duplicate invoices
14 into an accounts payable data base for payment; and

15 automatically rejecting invoices identified as duplicate
16 invoices back to said vendor without introducing said
17 duplicate invoices into said accounts payable data base
18 for payment.

1 6. [Amended] A program storage device readable by a machine,
2 tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by a
3 machine to perform method steps for operating a computing system
4 responsive to receipt of an electronic input invoice from a
5 vendor, said method steps comprising:

6 grabbing said input invoice before it is input to an
7 accounts payable database;

8 identifying previously received invoices from said vendor
9 having the same vendor invoice identifier;

10 identifying said previously received invoices having the
11 same vendor invoice identifier any items corresponding to
12 items on said input invoice;

13 calculating the net sum of items on said input invoice

14 having corresponding items on said previously received
15 invoices;

16 for an input invoice having an item with a net sum greater
17 than zero, communicating a duplicate invoice rejection
18 message back to said vendor based upon said grabbing,
19 identifying and calculating steps without posting said
20 input invoice to said accounts payable database; and

21 for an input invoice having no item with a net sum greater
22 than zero, posting said input invoice to said accounts
23 payable database.

1 7. [Amended] An article of manufacture comprising:

2 a computer useable medium having computer readable program code
3 means embodied therein for operating a computing system
4 responsive to receipt of an electronic input invoice from a
5 vendor, the computer readable program means in said article of
6 manufacture comprising:

7 computer readable program code means for causing a
8 computer to effect grabbing said input invoice before it
9 is input to an accounts payable database;

10 computer readable program code means for causing a

11 computer to effect identifying previously received
12 invoices from said vendor having the same vendor invoice
13 identifier;

14 computer readable program code means for causing a
15 computer to effect identifying said previously received
16 invoices having the same vendor invoice identifier any
17 items corresponding to items on said input invoice;

18 computer readable program code means for causing a
19 computer to effect calculating the net sum of items on
20 said input invoice having corresponding items on said
21 previously received invoices;

22 computer readable program code means for causing a
23 computer to effect for an input invoice having an item
24 with a net sum greater than zero, communicating a
25 duplicate invoice rejection message back to said vendor;
26 and

27 computer readable program code means for causing a
28 computer to effect for an input invoice having no item
29 with a net sum greater than zero, posting said input
30 invoice to said accounts payable database.

1 8. [Amended] An article of manufacture comprising:

2 a computer useable medium having computer readable program
3 code means embodied therein for processing electronic
4 input invoices from a vendor, the computer readable
5 program means in said article of manufacture comprising:

6 computer readable program code means for causing a
7 computer to effect preprocessing said input invoices to
8 identify as duplicate invoices those invoices have an
9 exact match on four data points including purchase order
10 number, vendor invoice number, item number, and sum
11 greater than zero;

12 computer readable program code means for causing a
13 computer to effect introducing invoices not identified as
14 duplicate invoices into an accounts payable data base for
15 payment; and

16 computer readable program code means for causing a
17 computer to effect rejecting invoices identified as
18 duplicate invoices back to said vendor without introducing
19 said duplicate invoices into said accounts payable data
20 base for payment.

1 9. A computing system responsive to receipt of an electronic
2 input invoice from a vendor, comprising:

3 means for grabbing said input invoice before it is input
4 to an accounts payable database;

5 means for identifying previously received invoices from
6 said vendor having the same vendor invoice identifier;

7 means for identifying said previously received invoices
8 having the same vendor invoice identifier any items
9 corresponding to items on said input invoice;

10 means for calculating the net sum of items on said input
11 invoice having corresponding items on said previously
12 received invoices;

13 means, responsive to an input invoice having an item with
14 a net sum greater than zero, for communicating a duplicate
15 invoice rejection message back to said vendor; and

16 means, responsive to an input invoice having no item with
17 a net sum greater than zero, for posting said input
18 invoice to said accounts payable database.

Please add the following new claim:

1 10. A computing system responsive to receipt of an electronic
2 input invoice from vendors, comprising:

3 an accounts payable database;
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5 sort logic for sorting said input invoices into
6 credit/debit sequence in the order received;
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8 posting logic for posting credit invoices to said accounts
9 payable database;

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15 net-sum logic for evaluating debit invoices in sequential
16 order with respect to previously received debit and credit
17 invoices to identify a duplicate debit invoice item, a
18 duplicate debit invoice item being an invoice item having
19 a net sum greater than zero determined with respect to
14 previously received invoices for the same vendor invoice
15 designation, same purchase order number, and same item
16 number;

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19 said posting logic being further operable for posting to
20 said accounts payable database only those debit invoices
21 for which said invoice items have a net sum less than or
22 equal to zero.

1 11. The computing system of claim 10, further comprising:
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3 rejection logic responsive to an input debit invoice from
4 a vendor having an item with a net sum greater than zero